

Kingston, October 1. 1847.

My dear friend,

I have been hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you at Bridgewater on the morrow, but dare not venture so far away from home. I have been threatened, (barely escaping,) with a bilious typhoid fever, and am slowly creeping up from the consequent debility. My parish have kindly taken the supply of the pulpit, or I would ask you to come on your mission on the next Sunday.

I regret not <sup>going</sup> coming to B. exceedingly: and since the first announcement have been thinking that I ought to be present; more especially as I feel quite well acquainted with the state of feeling in the town, I think I know how to meet it. Mr. Bradford is a very earnest & faithful man: and if he preaches to his people as I know he has preached to mine, he is doing a good work for the slave.

And here is one reason why I wished to be present. I fear much will not be given to those who will only relapse into proslavery sickness if they are



fed with such strong meat as a different community  
would thrive upon. Indeed, I really believe, (I would  
not say this to any but an Abolitionist,) that we may be  
making a mistake continually in this wise. And like  
Elder Knapp gather in of an evening a dozen converts  
to the Reform, while a large number go away disturbed  
& alienated. Besides, all the fruit that drops in these  
high winds is not ripe, & will not keep, when Van-  
Buren shall be nominated for the Presidency. I wish  
<sup>some</sup> ~~all~~ our speakers felt more earnest to win souls, as  
some religious technical<sup>ists</sup> say, and less eager to ~~say~~ <sup>utter</sup>  
~~strange~~ ~~things~~ - more desirous of spreading a reform  
than of blowing up a revolution. However, I do  
not mean to complain concerning men who are un-  
questionably striving in their own way.

The rude burst of indignation at the  
Church & Clergy do not annoy me in the least, for  
I do not feel in the least assuaged thereby. When this  
American Sodom is destroyed, I am not afraid that  
justice will confound the guiltless with the guilty.  
If proslavery men again triumph openly, we might  
be flayed: but if anti-slavery crushes all the influences  
which have impeded its progress, I do not feel that I have  
any cause to fear, on account of any designed mischief done.



But nevertheless, I wish a different way could obtain among the Abolitionists in the Old Colony. This way of holding the Conventions on Sunday has a show of intentional opposition to all ministers. If they be as true as steel to the cause, until they have made <sup>I can carry them too,</sup> the people so, they cannot be present very well on either of the days. The circumstance is largely caught up by the opponents of plain speaking against Slavery, and made the most of in our parishes: and surely it is not the wish or purpose of the Society to impede those, who are rejoiced to labor with them in different spheres, at different times, for the same end.

I do ~~not~~ hope you will not allow that W. in New York to be paraded forth as the <sup>embodiment</sup> ~~head~~ of Unitarianism. Unitarianism would rot (if so it ought) if it had no man heart than is there manifested. I do ~~not~~ admire almost beyond measure Dr. Dewey's writings, and give him the meed of a great mind, even as I give the same to any great heathen writer. There admiration ceases. When we come to think of the gospel, we cannot measure things by size alone. A decent sized peach is preferable to a <sup>mammoth</sup> pumpkin for the dessert.

I do not know as I have written just what



I intended to write. I am sure I had no purpose to  
throw any cold water upon any phase of the movement.  
I hope you will have a good meeting, & that the meeting  
will do a vast deal of good. <sup>¶</sup> I was exceedingly glad to  
see your letter to Dr. Armstrong. A good many words  
have been bandied concerning it; all having the effect  
to draw attention to it: and the result will be good.  
I do not know but that you & I may live to see the  
day, when proslavery shall be as much at a discount  
in the community even with "our first men", as ~~today~~  
a wholesome antislavery character <sup>now</sup> is ~~now~~. It  
will be curious, & somewhat annoying perhaps, to those  
who have expended so much labor in stemming the  
current, when the tide suddenly turns, to behold  
the very men, ~~they~~ have encountered so roughly on their  
way, floating rapidly & joyously, oblivious of the past,  
on their new course, altogether in advance of bodies  
of far less bulk, though it may be of more weight. So  
it will probably be. When Anti-slavery is crowned, I doubt  
whether even William Lloyd Garrison will be the  
acknowledged champion. He may win the battle, (I have  
been spirit will be content with success,) but a Winthrop  
or a Lawrence will wear the laurel.

In haste, Truly Yours, Augustus N. K. P.